



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Burn Planned at Alley Spring

Van Buren MO – The National Park Service and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) are planning to conduct a prescribed burn near Alley Spring this fall. The burn will be carefully planned and monitored by fire management staff from both agencies and will be conducted sometime between early November and early December. The ignition and timing of the prescribed burn is dependent on weather and vegetation meeting specific conditions.

Alley Spring prescribed burn unit contains 826 acres and is located northwest of Alley Spring. This joint project will encompass portions of Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) and Angeline Conservation Area. During the prescribed burn, park operations will continue as usual, though foot and vehicle travel on nearby roads and trails may be restricted during prescribed fire operations for public safety reasons.

Prescribed burning has a variety of purposes, including the reduction of fuel accumulations near developed areas, which helps reduce the threat of unplanned wildland fires in and around ONSR. Prescribed fire benefits native species and habitats in a variety of ways. Native species are adapted to fire, and in many cases actually depend on fire in order to thrive. Managed fires help restore native habitats such as glades and savannas, which can suffer from the encroachment of woody species. Prescribed burning also improves the structure of forests and woodlands. Deer, turkeys, collared lizards and other species benefit from the use of fire to maintain or improve the habitat they depend on.

For more information on the park's burn plans and policies, contact Fire Communication and Education Specialist Dena Matteson at 573-323-8028.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people. For more information visit, www.nps.gov/ozar.

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